

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 WARSAW 06396 271438Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 VO-05 CA-01 HA-05 SCS-06 PPT-01
L-03 H-01 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 /045 W
-----095152 281136Z /11
R 271353Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY WARSAW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6405

C O N F I D E N T I A L WARSAW 6396

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: CSCE CGEN CVIS CPAS CASC SHUM PL US
SUBJ: FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT: MFA CONSULAR DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL
TALKS "FRANKLY" ABOUT DIVIDED FAMILIES.

1. ON JULY 25, THE EMBASSY'S COUNSELOR FOR CONSULAR AFFAIRS MET WITH AMBASSADOR LUCJAN LIK, VICE DIRECTOR, CONSULAR DEPARTMENT, MFA, AT A SOCIAL OCCASION, AND DISCUSSED DIVIDED FAMILIES. EMBOFF NOTED THAT VARIOUS POLISH OFFICIALS SEEM CONCERNED THAT THE U.S. IS ARTIFICALLY BLOWING UP THE DIVIDED FAMILIES ISSUE, WITH SOME OF THE CASES REPRESENTED BEING SUBMITTED BY OUR SIDE TO EMBARRASS THE GOP. TO REFUTE THIS, HE DESCRIBED THE CRITERIA A CASE HAD TO MEET BEFORE WE CONSIDERED IT APPROPRAITE FOR REPRESENTING TO THE MFA, I.E., A MINIMUM OF TWO PASSPORT REFUSALS BY THE POLISH AUTHORITIES, AND SUSTAINED INTEREST BY THE PRINCIPALS IN FAMILY REUNIFICATION IN THE U.S. HE DESCRIBED THE LEGAL BASIS FOR IMMIGRANT VISA PREFERENCE STATUS, AND ADDED THAT THE EMBASSY WAS PRESENTLY HAND-COUNTING ALL PREVIOUSLY REPRESENTED CASES TO DETERMINE WHETHER THE PRINCIPALS WERE STILL INTERESTED. (NOTE: WE WILL LET THE DEPARTMENT KNOW THE RESULTS UPON COMPLETION OF THIS PROJECT.) THE EMBOFF CONCLUDED BY SAYING THAT WE WOULD SHORTLY BE SENDING A NEW REPRESENTATION LIST TO THE MFA.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 WARSAW 06396 271438Z

2. LIK EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR THE GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF U.S. PRACTICES. HE SAID THAT POLAND HAD GENERALLY GOOD RELATIONS WITH THE U.S. AND DID NOT WANT THIS PROBLEM TO AFFECT ADVERSELY IMPORTANT AREAS IN OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS. HE SAID, FURTHER, THAT HE RECOGNIZED THE STRONG CONGRESSIONAL PRESSURES IN SOME CASES, AND, INDEED, THE GENERAL INTEREST IN THE U.S.

IN HUMAN RIGHTS. HOWEVER, HE ASKED THAT WE UNDERSTAND POLAND'S POSITION, WHICH HE WOULD "FRANKLY" DESCRIBE.

3. POLAND, ACCORDING TO LIK, NEEDED ITS LABOR FORCE AND SIMPLY COULD NOT AFFORD TO ENCOURAGE EMIGRATION. WE WOULD SEE THAT THE POLES WOULD BE FORTHCOMING ON "GENUINE HUMANITARIAN CASES." HOWEVER, HE NOTED, A DIVIDED FAMILY COULD BE REUNITED IN POLAND AS EASILY AS IN THE UNITED STATES. EMBOFF INTERJECTED THAT THERE WAS NO INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENT ABOUT WHERE REUNIFICATION SHOULD OCCUR. WITHOUT SUCH AN AGREED RULE, THE WISHES OF THE INDIVIDUAL WERE, IN OUR VIEW, CONTROLLING.

4. AMBASSADOR LIK SAID THE GOP WAS PARTICULARLY CONCERNED ABOUT CASES INVOLVING BROTHERS AND SISTERS OF AMERICAN CITIZENS, AND THEIR IMMEDIATE FAMILIES, I.E., FIFTH PREFERENCE. HE SAID THE POLES WERE CONCERNED THAT SUCH CASES WOULD GENERATE A "TRULY DANGEROUS CHAIN REACTION" OF POTENTIAL EMIGRANTS TO THE U.S.

5. LIK ALSO SAID THAT POLAND COULD NOT AFFORD TO SPARE TOO MANY HAIGHLY TRAINED PROFESSIONALS, SUCH AS PHYSICIANS, ENGINEERS AND THE LIKE. HE DID NOT RESPOND WHEN THE EMBASSY OFFICER NOTED THAT, ALTHOUGH SOME PROFESSIONALS WERE GETTING EMMIGRANT VISAS, VERY MANY OF THE UNRESOLVED

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 WARSAW 06396 271438Z

CASES INVOLVED PEOPLE WITH LOW SKILLS INCLUDING MANUAL LABORERS, LOW-PAID OFFICER CLERKS, SALE PERSONNEL IN RETAIL OUTLIETS, AND FARMERS.

6. FINALLY, AMBASSADOR LIK SAID THAT WE WOULD SEE A PICKUP IN APPROVED CASES IN THE FALL AND WINTER. LATE SPRING AND SUMMER WERE VERY BUSY TIMES FOR THE MILITIA OFFICES IN THE PROVINCES, WHICH WERE PROCESSING URGENT TOURIST REQUESTS FROM THE MASSES OF POLES PLANNING TO TRAVEL ABROAD DURING THE SUMMER VACATION. LIK CONCLUDED BY SAYING THAT BOTH SIDES SHOULD RECOGNIZE THE PROBLEM WOULD "NEVER BE SOLVED UNTIL POLAND'S PER CAPITA INCOME AND REAL PURCHASING POWER EQUALS THAT OF THE UNITED STATES." HE SAID THE EARLIEST THAT THIS COULD BE EXPECTED WOULD BE 1988 OR 1989.

7. COMMENT: AMBASSADOR LIK WAS SOMEWHAT MORE FORTHCOMING ON THIS OCCASION THAN HE HAS BEEN IN THE PAST. PERHAPS THIS WAS BECAUSE THE CONVERSATION OCCURRED OUTSIDE THE MFA WHERE HE WAS A GUEST OF AM EMBASSY OFFICER. LIK RECOGNIZED THAT THE DIVIDED FAMILIES ISSUE, IS REALISITCALLY SPEAKING, HERE "FOR THE DURATION."

HE ALSO SEEMS TO UNDERSTAND THAT THIS ISSUE CAN, IF PERMITTED TO FASTER, ULTIMATELY ADVERSELY AFFECT OTHER AREAS OF THE U.S.-POLISH BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP.

8. WE HOPE THAT THE COMING WEEKS AND MONTHS WILL SEE A PICKUP IN APPROVALS OF THE STILL UNRESOLVED DIVIDED FAMILIES CASES -- AT LEAST NUCLEAR CASES.

9. A KEY PART OF THE ISSUE, AS WE SEE IT, REMAINS WHAT IT HAS PROBABLY ALWAYS BEEN -- CAN THE "DOVES" WITHIN THE GOP WHO ARE RELATIVELY MORE UNDERSTANDING ON THIS ISSUE PERSUADE THE "HAWKS" THAT IS IS IN THE REGIME'S OWN INTEREST TO RESOLVE MORE OF THESE CASES? LIK TOLD THE CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 WARSAW 06396 271438Z

REPORTING OFFICER THAT AMBASSADOR SPASOWSKI REGULARLY FORWARDED CONGRESSIONAL INTERVENTIONS ON DIVIDED FAMILIES CASES TO THE MFA, WHICH PASSED THESE INQUIRIES TO THE PASSPORT AUTHORITIES. RESPONSES TO THESE INQUIRIES WERE REGULARLY RETURNED TO WASHINGTON. IF THIS IS TRUE - AND WE KNOW OF NO REASON WHY LIK SHOULD NOT TELL THE TRUTH ON THIS POINT - THEN INTERIOR MINISTRY OFFICIALS AND OTHERS OUTSIDE THE FOREIGN MINISTRY ARE REGULARLY INFORMED ABOUT CONGRESSIONAL CONCERNS IN INDIVIDUAL CASES. IT REMAINS TO BE SEEN IF THIS WILL LEAD TO MORE RESOLUTIONS OF DIVIDED FAMILIES CASES IN THE FUTURE. END COMMENT.
SCHAUFEELE

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TRAVEL CONTROLS, POPULATION MOVEMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 27 jul 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978WARSAW06396
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780310-0052
Format: TEL
From: WARSAW
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780712/aaaaajun.tel
Line Count: 149
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: f27f566b-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1861238
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT: MFA CONSULAR DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL TALKS \FRANKLY\ ABOUT DIVIDED FAMILIES.
TAGS: CGEN, CVIS, CPAS, CASC, SHUM, PL, US, CSCE
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/f27f566b-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014